THE DICKENSIAN

A Magazine for Dickens Lovers
and Monthly Record of the Dickens Fellowship

VOL. III. NOVEMBER, 1907. NO. 11.

WHEN FOUND—

THE Dickens Fellowship completed the fifth year of its existence on October 5th last, on which day the second annual conference and dinner were held at the Holborn Restaurant. In the afternoon delegates from the various branches throughout the country and London attended in conference to elect officers for the ensuing year, amend the rules, and to transact other business. The details of the meeting will be found on another page. But it may be noted here that the chief alteration made was the raising of the minimum subscription to Headquarter members to two and sixpence per annum. At the dinner in the evening nearly 200 members and friends sat down, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Wm. P. Treloar, Bart., who was supported by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, his Honour Judge Bompas, K.C., Mr. Edmund Dickens, Canon Benham, and many others. Excellent speeches were made during the evening, a report of which will be found elsewhere.

* * * * *

Among the Dickens manuscripts in the Forster Collection at South Kensington is one of an article entitled "London Crime," known to have been written by the novelist for *The Examiner*, but which bibliographers have hitherto been unable to trace in the pages of that newspaper. We, however, have been more fortunate, and were successful in discovering it under the title of "Ignorance and Crime," the name having obviously been altered in the proof. It is one of several articles which are to form a new volume of Dickens's writings, the whole of which will be new to the public, and will reveal to admirers of the novelist that Dickens's desire for the betterment of the social welfare of the community was not merely given expression to in his tales, as some have suggested, in order to mould a character more completely and to serve the purpose of the story, but that he always recognised the needs of reform in social administration, and for ever had it in his mind, and continuously used his pen in its behalf. Here he traces the causes of crime to ignorance, and emphasises the point made by More: "Let the State prevent vice, and take away the occasions for offences by well ordering its subjects, and not by suffering wickedness to increase, afterward, to be punished." The article was written in 1848, and in it Dickens appears not a little as a prophet, for things have changed since then.

* * * * *

Mr. Bransby Williams is at the present time fulfilling an engagement in America. He sailed in the "Lusitania" on October 5th,

and a deputation from the Fellowship Conference assembled at Euston Station to bid him a safe journey and a successful tour. He was met on the other side by a deputation from the Manhattan Branch, who had postponed their annual dinner in order to make him the guest of the evening. Mr. Williams took with him the model of the Maypole Inn which he purchased at the sale of the late John L. Toole's effects, for which he has been offered 30,000 dollars, but which he has no intention of accepting. He also took other relics with him for exhibition purposes only. Mr. Williams has been asked to make a lecture tour through the States, dealing with Dickens's life and characters, under the patronage of President Roosevelt. He has not yet refused, and there is no question that such an undertaking would be a huge success.

* * * * *

President Roosevelt has recently been quoting Dickens in his speeches. "Let them cease to be angry with Dickens; read him, be amused, and profit, but not be misled by the lessons that Martin Chuzzlewit teaches," said he at Cairo (Illinois) the other day. Describing the locality as the garden-spot of the world, he observed that a generation ago a man possessing so much insight as Charles Dickens had failed to foresee that America's progress was located in those parts of the unfortunate "Eden" of *Martin Chuzzlewit* fame. From this the President drew a warning not to heed the criticisms of pessimists, particularly those who attacked his anti-corporation policy. The President's speech, we understand, resulted in the publication by the evening papers of chapters of the novel just named. His advice to keep a lively watch on present-day Pograms and Bricks in politics, journalism, business, and private life, and wage war against them was a clever touch. So, too, was his advice to follow Mark Tapley and not be downhearted concerning the future of the country.

* * * * *

Mr. James E. Palmer, who had the distinction of forming the first branch of the Fellowship, that at Blackheath, has, in consequence of leaving the neighbourhood, been compelled to resign his official position. The success of the Blackheath, Lee, and Lewisham Branch was due chiefly to the energy and enthusiasm of Mr. Palmer, and, as a token of appreciation of all he did on their behalf, the members made a presentation to him at their meeting on October 17th. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have always had the welfare of the Fellowship at heart, and have devoted much of their time in carrying out, in the spirit as well as in the letter, the objects and aims of the society. The best wishes for their future go with them from all who came in contact with them in their work.

* * * * *

There have been some conflicting and confusing references in the Press lately to Barnard's Inn Tavern in Holborn, which is shortly to be destroyed. One contemporary has stated that Barnard's Inn, "where Dickens once lived," is to be soon swept away, and then, of course, goes on to talk about Pip and *Great Expectations*. This paragraph has gone the round. Another states that Barnard's Inn Tavern is where Pip lodged. Every good Dickensian

knows he did not, but lodged in the Inn itself. We believe the actual facts are these. Barnard's Inn Tavern was the "Red Lamp" of *Barnaby Rudge*, and from its windows the stirring scenes of the Gordon rioters must have been witnessed. Langdale's distillery, which was so ruthlessly burned, was but a few doors off, as is the modern building now. The tavern dates back to the fifteenth century, and for some years past has been the home of the Pickwick Masonic Lodge.

* * * * *

We understand that the famous Bull Hotel, Rochester, has changed hands, and it is to be earnestly hoped that the new proprietor will sustain its Dickens traditions. It is one of the most interesting Dickens landmarks in Kent, and no one ever thinks of visiting Rochester without calling at the Bull to take a meal in the coffee room, which Mr. Pickwick and his friends have made historic, nor would one think of missing a sight of the ball-room or Mr. Pickwick's bedroom. Its most attractive advertisement, which used to catch the eye of every passer-by, "Good House, Nice Beds, *vide* Pickwick," disappeared some time ago. We hope it will be restored, and that the Bull Hotel will continue to have good reasons for attracting the Dickens pilgrim from all over the world in the future, as it used to have in the past.

* * * * *

It seems that there is likely to be quite a revival in Dickens plays. Mr. Tree is to produce immediately Mr. Comyns Carr's version of "Edwin Drood," the Fellowship Dramatic Club, as we announce elsewhere, are producing "Dolly Varden," and Mr. Charles Cartwright promises a series of Dickens plays. The success of his "David Copperfield" has been unprecedented, and wherever it is performed the greatest enthusiasm prevails. Whilst at Cardiff recently Mr. Charles Collette, who plays Micawber, was interviewed on the possibilities of Dickens's books as plays, in the course of which he said that there is enough incident in *David Copperfield* and *Bleak House*, or any other of Dickens's novels to provide material for three or four plays. This, of course, is true, and it is only because dramatists have not realised it and confined their plays to one set of incidents before that the Dickens play has not always been a success. We notice that throughout the interview Mr. Collette uses that awkward and incorrect word "Dickensonian," as though the novelist's name was Dickenson.

* * * * *

Two new branches of the Dickens Fellowship are in active formation, and will, no doubt, be firmly established before our next number appears. One is at Broadstairs, the town so intimately associated with the life and work of the novelist, and where recently Mr. Eric Williams gave a dramatic recital which added over twelve pounds to the National Dickens Library Fund: the other at Plymouth, an important centre, which should afford opportunities of making quite a stronghold there. The Hon. Secretary of the former is Mr. W. Layton, 47, Gladstone Road, Broadstairs; and of the latter Mr. Charles Quain, 5, Beaumont Place, Plymouth.

THE EDITOR.

IGNORANCE AND CRIME.*

By CHARLES DICKENS.

A REMARKABLE document, and one suggesting many weighty considerations and supplying much important evidence in reference to the alliance of crime and ignorance, has been recently published by the Government. It is a statement of the number of persons taken into custody by the Metropolitan Police, summarily disposed of, and tried and convicted in the year 1847; to which are appended certain comparative statements from the years 1831 to 1847 inclusive.

In one part of this return the various trades and professions of the various persons taken into custody in the course of the year, are set forth in detail. Although this information is necessarily imperfect, in the absence of an accurate statistical return, set forth side by side with it, of the gross number of persons pursuing each of such trades or professions in the metropolis, it is very curious. Out of a total of between forty-one and forty-two thousand male offenders distributed over seventy-nine trades, twelve thousand four hundred and ten are labourers, of whom one-twelfth offended against the vagrant laws. Next in point of number come sailors, who exceed eighteen hundred. Next, the carpenters, who are about a hundred below the sailors. Next, the shoemakers, who muster some six hundred weaker than the carpenters. Next, the tailors, who are about a hundred in the rear of the shoemakers. Next, the bricklayers, who are again about a hundred below the tailors. And so on down to four sheriff's officers, three clergymen, and one umbrella-maker. Nor are the offences of each class less notable. Thus, of the three clergymen, one is drunk, one disorderly, and one pugilistic; which is exactly the case with the sheriff's officers. The solitary umbrella-maker figures as a murderer. Of five parish officers, one is a suspicious character, one a horse stealer, and three commit assaults. Of sixteen postmen, seven steal money from letters, and six get drunk. Butchers are more disposed to common assaults than to any other class of offence. The chief weakness of carpenters is drunkenness; after that, a disposition to assault the lieges; after that, a tendency to petty larceny. Tailors, as we all know, are disorderly in their drink, and pot-valiant. Female servants are greatly tempted into theft. Ill-paid milliners and dressmakers would seem to lapse the most into such offences as may be supposed to arise from, or to lead to, prostitution.

One extraordinary feature of the tables is the immense number of persons who have no trade or occupation, which may be stated, in round numbers, as amounting to eleven thousand one hundred out of forty-one thousand men, and to seventeen thousand one hundred out of twenty thousand five hundred women. Of this last-mentioned number of women, nine thousand can neither read nor write, eleven thousand can only read, or read and write im-

* The manuscript of this article is in the Dyce and Forster collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum, and bears the title of "London Crime." It appeared in *The Examiner*, April 22, 1848, under the above title.

perfectly, and only fourteen can read and write well! The proportion of total ignorance, among the men, is as thirteen thousand out of forty-one thousand; only one hundred and fifty out of all that forty-one thousand can read and write well; and no more knowledge than the mere ability to blunder over a book like a little child, or to read and write imperfectly, is possessed by the rest. This state of mental comparison is what has been commonly called "education" in England for a good many years. And that ill-used word might, quite as reasonably, be employed to express a teapot.

It should be remembered that the very best aspect of this widely diffused ignorance among criminals, is presented through the medium of these returns, and that they are probably unduly favourable to the attainments of these wretched persons. It is one of the properties of ignorance to believe itself wiser than it is. Striking instances are within our knowledge in which this alleged ability to read well, and write a little—appearing to be claimed by offenders in perfect good faith—has proved, on examination, scarcely to include the lowest rudiments of a child's first primer. Of this vast number of women who have no trade or occupation—seventeen thousand out of twenty thousand—it is pretty certain that an immense majority have never been instructed in the commonest household duties, or the plainest use of needle and thread. Every day's experience in our great prisons shows the prevailing ignorance in these respects among the women who are constantly passing and repassing through them, to be scarcely less than their real ignorance of the arts of reading and writing and the moral ends to which they conduce. And in the face of such prodigious facts, sects and denominations of Christians quarrel with each other and leave the prisons full up and ever filling with people who begin to be educated within the prison walls!

The notion that education for the general people is comprised in the faculty of tumbling over words, letter by letter, and syllable by syllable, like the learned pig, or of making staggering pothooks and hangers inclining to the right, has surely had its day by this time, and a long day too. The comfortable conviction that a parrot acquaintance with the Church Catechism and the Commandments is enough shoe-leather for poor pilgrims by the Slough of Despond, sufficient armour against the Giants Slay-Good and Despair, and a sort of Parliamentary train for third-class passengers to the beautiful Gate of the City, must be pulled up by the roots, as its growth will overshadow this land. Side by side with Crime, Disease, and Misery in England, Ignorance is always brooding, and is always certain to be found. The union of Night with Darkness is not more certain and indisputable. Schools of Industry, schools where the simple knowledge learned from books is made pointedly *useful*, and immediately applicable to the duties and business of life, directly conducive to order, cleanliness, punctuality, and economy—schools where the sublime lessons of the New Testament are made the superstructure to be reared, enduringly, on such foundations; not frittered away piece-meal into harassing intelligi-

bilities, and associated with weariness, languor, and distaste, by the use of the Gospel as a dog's-eared spelling-book, than which nothing in what is called instruction is more common, and nothing more to be condemned—schools on such principles, deep as the lowest depth of Society, and leaving none of its dregs untouched, are the only means of removing the scandal and the danger that besets us in this nineteenth century of our Lord. Their motto they may take from MORE: "Let the State prevent vices, and take away the occasions for offences by well ordering its subjects, and not by suffering wickedness to increase, afterward to be punished."

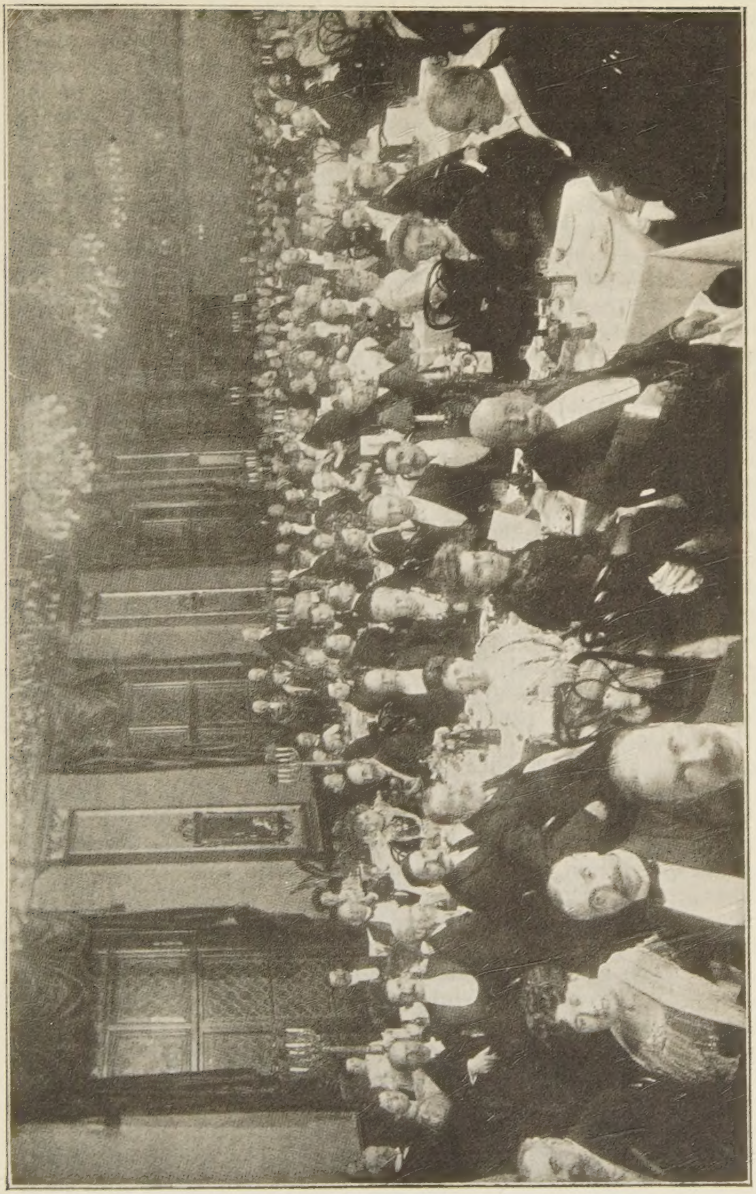
Old Sir Peter Laurie's sagacity does not appear by these returns to have quite "put down" suicide yet. It has remained almost as steady, indeed, as if the world rejoiced in no such magnate. Four years ago, the number of metropolitan suicides committed in a twelvemonth was one hundred and fifty-five; last year it was one hundred and fifty-two: not to mention two thousand persons reported last year to the police as lost or missing, of whom only half were found again.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND DINNER OF THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP.

THE second annual conference of the Dickens Fellowship was held at the Holborn Restaurant, London, on Saturday afternoon, October 5th. There were about seventy delegates present, representing the following branches:—Birmingham, Blackheath, Brighton, Brixton, Chesterfield, Dublin, Edinburgh, Forest Gate, Gravesend, Hastings, Leeds, Liverpool, Maidstone, Manchester, Sheffield, Southampton, Stockport, and West London.

The conference was presided over by Mr. B. W. Matz, who, with Sir Edward Russell, was elected a Vice-President of the Fellowship. Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., was re-elected President; Mr. J. W. T. Ley, Hon. General Secretary; Mr. T. W. Tyrrell, Hon. Treasurer; and Sheffield was chosen as the place of meeting for next year. Other business was transacted, and will be found recorded in the Annual Report, which forms a part of our present issue.

In the evening a banquet was held, to which nearly two hundred sat down. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir Wm. P. Treloar, Bart.) presided, and among those present were his Honour Judge Bompas, Canon Benham, Mrs. Kate Reilly, Mr. Edmund Dickens, Mr. and Mrs. W. Whitten, Mr. Lewis Hind, Mrs. Humphry ("Madge," of *Truth*), Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs. M. M. Davies (of Kentucky, U.S.A.), Mr. A. F. C. Morgan, Miss Florence Dickens, and Mr. Herbert Dickens. The Hon. Secretary read letters and telegrams regretting inability to be present from Mr. John Hare, Mr. G. K. Chesterton, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., the American Ambassador—who wrote: "The admirers of Dickens in my country are as numerous as in his own country"—Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, Sir Charles Mathews, Sir A. Conan Doyle, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and many others.



THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT, LONDON, OCTOBER 5TH, 1907.
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor (Sir Wm. S. Treloar, Bt.) in the chair.
[*Photo by Messrs. Prattelle & Young.*

Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, who claimed that he was the only personal friend of Dickens present, was entrusted with the toast of "The Dickens Fellowship," and referred in eulogistic terms to the usefulness of the society and the charitable works it had undertaken. In the course of an appreciation of Dickens, he observed that there were two Dickenses—the writer and the man. An evidence of the wonderful influence of Dickens was the presence there that evening of the Lord Mayor, who was under the spell of Dickens when he instituted that great scheme for the cripples, which was so dear to his heart. Dickens was a man of the highest principle, unselfish, and modest, and extremely tolerant to his opponents.

Mr. J. W. T. Ley, in replying to the toast, said that since the Dickens Fellowship was inaugurated in 1902 they had enrolled over 12,000 members, and their second and third largest branches were in Canada (Toronto) and Australia respectively. It had done excellent work in charitable and other directions, and had strived to put in practice the Dickens sentiment throughout the world.

"To All Lovers of Dickens" was the next toast, and in proposing this the Lord Mayor said they all loved Dickens. When he himself was first married he used to go with his wife to St. James's Hall to hear Dickens read, and as they could not afford the reserved seats —(laughter)—they went early. One day, when Dickens read the very strong chapter of the murder of Nancy by Bill Sikes, a man rose in the stalls, and declaimed against Dickens for daring to read such a scene before ladies. The gentleman had to leave the hall—(laughter)—but the Lord Mayor was told that Dickens himself had arranged that little performance—(laughter)—and with perfect honesty of purpose, for it was the first time he had read it in public, and he was rather doubtful himself as to whether it was a thing ladies and gentlemen would like to hear read. The result of the gentleman's protest was perfectly satisfactory—except to the gentleman. (Laughter.) If Dickens were to come to live with him at the Mansion House, he could give him some good anecdotes. (Laughter.) "I have a coachman," remarked the Lord Mayor, amid laughter, and he was sure that Dickens would have made a very fine character out of him. He was an excellent whip, and the only thing against him was that he was a teetotaller. (Laughter.) He remembered that when he went to see him, before he was Lord Mayor, he said: "Wright, you and I have known each other at a distance for some time, and if I am elected we shall become closer acquainted." The worthy Wright replied: "If you are elected, Sir William? Why, it is the ambition of the universe to see you Lord Mayor." (Loud laughter.) Dickens would have made something of that—(laughter)—but all that he (the Lord Mayor) made of it was that he felt very gratified, and up till now that feeling had been maintained. But now he understood the coachman had said the same to somebody else. (Loud laughter.) Dickens would have made something of that. The Lord Mayor related several such amusing anecdotes, and concluded by saying that there was nobody in the world who loved the memory of the novelist more than himself.

The response was made by Canon Benham, who said the Tiny Tims of London had found a true friend in the Lord Mayor.

In sympathetic terms, "The Immortal Memory of Charles Dickens" was given by the Rev. W. A. C. Chevalier, who said: "Charles Dickens was a great benefactor of mankind and was well beloved; there was also no kind of doubt in their mind—at least, as members of this Fellowship to-night—that he was rich, he meant very rich, in the affection of the people. Some people felt doubt as to whether Dickens was a religious man. Blessings on his kind heart! He had done more good by one of his works and given more innocent pleasure than half the pulpits on any given Sunday. He was convinced that Charles Dickens had done wonderful work in ameliorating the lives of the people by such beautiful prose idylls of the *Christmas Carol*, *The Chimes*, and *The Cricket on the Hearth*. They knew Charles Dickens was not a believer in sectarianism, but he was a religious man, although he did not sing psalms and hymns." The toast was drunk in silence.

Mr. B. W. Matz, who proposed "The Branches," said that the success of the Fellowship was due to the branches, all of which worked in unison with the headquarters. He emphasised the fact that the branches were the Fellowship. There were forty of them to-day, yet there were not forty fellowships, but one Fellowship.

Mr. Frank Yoxall, of Birmingham, responded.

Mr. H. Snowden Ward proposed the toast of "The Visitors," which was responded to by his Honour Judge Bompas, K.C., who said that too often schemes of reform were more theoretical than practical, but Charles Dickens was a great practical reformer. He supposed the truth was that in real reform the first thing was to have knowledge, and no one had given them so accurate a knowledge of all the miseries and needs of their great cities as had Charles Dickens. The next thing they must add was sympathy, and never was there a man with greater sympathy. And when they had knowledge and sympathy then they were sure action would follow—and action had followed, and they saw the result. Dickens loved all mankind, as had been pointed out. They saw the result of his work all around them day by day. The speaker's father had been named in the books of Dickens, who had taken his father's characteristics, and had shown them in one of his cases. There was not much endeavour to copy a particular man. And that seemed to him the triumph or one of the triumphs of Charles Dickens's writing. His characters were not mere copies of particular people, but they were embodiments of real characteristics of the nation, of the people at large. They were not one particular specimen, but they were characteristic specimens of a class of life. The trial scene was a wonderful instance of insight into human nature, and he, for one, was proud that his father was eminent enough to have been elected as the one man who should be shown as the representative of the bar. He might perhaps say that a few years after his father's death the Justices came to their house and said that his was the very greatest intellect that they had at Westminster Hall; they had fixed upon him as the foremost leader in intellect at the bar. So much for

private recollections. He did, in the name of the visitors, thank them all for the very pleasant evening they had spent.

Mr. Henry Davey, of Brighton, proposed "The Ladies."

During the evening Madame Micklebacher charmed the company with her excellent singing, and Mr. Wm. Miles and Mr. Frank Speaight gave recitals from Dickens. Miss Winifred M. Nash officiated at the piano. It only remains to add that a unique programme and menu had been prepared by Mr. J. W. T. Ley, with appropriate quotations for each speech from the works of the novelist, all of which were ingeniously chosen. On the front page appeared a portrait of Dickens and pictures of his four London houses, a souvenir to be kept and prized.

POETICAL TRIBUTES TO CHARLES DICKENS

XXXV.

THOU Shakespeare of our day, farewell,
Rich fancies in thy soul did dwell,
And Nature sweet, with magic spell
Did guide thy wondrous pen.

Bless'd by the Great Omnipotent,
Forth, mighty teacher, thou wast sent;
He made thee His grand instrument
To change the hearts of men.

He mirror'd greatness in thy mind,
Thou ever gentle, good, and kind,
Physician to the mental blind,
What toil hast thou endur'd!

To Virtue shall thy works entice
The guilty from the side of Vice,
To where Truth points to Paradise,
And crowns may be secur'd.

Thy pure thoughts o'er the world are spread,
From palace to the poor man's shed,
They oft soothe Sickness on its bed,
With balm of sterling worth.

Thy part has been in this vast sphere,
To urge sweet Pity—dry Grief's tear,
And with thy matchless wit to cheer;
Thy name but breath'd caus'd mirth.

In peace are hush'd thy hopes and fears
For this our land, now bath'd in tears
For thee, whose bright name it reveres,
Proud of thy learned lore.

Unchang'd shall thy lov'd mem'ry bloom,
Till all Earth's beauties fade in gloom,
When Judgment's thunders shake thy tomb,
And "Time shall be no more."

EDWIN TOMLIN, in *The Jewish Record*, August 5th, 1870.

DICKENS IN EDINBURGH

By J. J. STEVENSON

II.

DICKENS'S new manager, who had taken Arthur Smith's place, proved quite unable to cope with the work required, at least so far as organisation was concerned, and scenes of great disorder ensued. Here is Dickens's description thereof, or at least a part of it:—

"I send you by post another *Scotsman*. From a paragraph in it, a letter, and an advertisement, you may be able to form some dim guess of the scene at Edinburgh last night. Such a pouring of people into a place already full to the throat, such an indescribable confusion, such a rending and tearing of dresses, and yet such a scene of good humour on the whole. I never saw the faintest approach to it. While I addressed the crowd in the room Gordon addressed the crowd in the street. Fifty frantic men got up in all parts of the hall and addressed me, all at once. Other frantic men made speeches to the walls. The whole Blackwood family were borne in on the top of a wave, and landed with their faces against the front of the platform. I read with the platform full of people, and it was like some impossible tableau, or gigantic picnic. . . . It was a most extraordinary sight. And yet from the moment I began to the moment of my leaving off, they never missed a point, and they ended with a burst of cheers.

"My people were torn to ribbons last night. They have not a hat among them, and scarcely a coat."

Another series of readings was commenced in St. James's Hall, London, on April 10th, 1866, and on the 16th Dickens came north to give readings in Edinburgh and Glasgow. This time Dolby acted as his agent. The first night in Edinburgh there was not a crowded audience, but Dickens knew now this peculiarity of his Edinburgh friends, and it caused him no anxiety. Indeed, on this occasion he remarks that "The house was more than twice better than any first night previously. They were, as usual, remarkably intelligent."

Glasgow was visited next evening, and at Edinburgh on the following night, when the last reading of this Scotch series was given, many as usual failed to get in, and had to go away disappointed.

In 1868 Dickens returned from America resolved to give a "farewell" series of readings. As he said, "he would give them and then read no more." Farewell readings they were indeed to be.

It was at this time he resolved to take up, as one of his subjects, the murder of Nancy by Bill Sikes in *Oliver Twist*, as, although terrible, it would be a novelty. His friends urged him to abandon the idea, but he refused to do so, and would listen to no remonstrance, although fully aware of the dangers by which this subject was necessarily surrounded. Indeed, Dolby tells us

that even after he had begun to get it up "he had misgivings if the impression produced would not be so horrible as to prevent people coming a second time. He paid me the compliment to read the story to me, and I confess to having done all in my power to dissuade him from continuing with it. My reasons for this had reference not so much to the inappropriateness of the subject for reading purposes—because I knew well that the sensational character of it would be a great attraction—as to the effect which the extra exertion might have on his constitution and the state of his health, which had now begun again to show signs of failing."

Elaborate articles on this proposed reading appeared in the London press, and Dolby found, when they arrived in Edinburgh on Saturday, December 5th, that there was a general wish that this reading should be included in the series about to be given there and in Glasgow, "Finding that this desire could not be gratified, the feeling of the Edinburgh public towards Mr. Dickens (or as he expresses it, "the affectionate regard of the people") was of such a kind that but a few days sufficed to fill the stall place for all the readings announced, and, contrary to previous Edinburgh experiences, the first of these readings was as largely attended as the holding capacity of the music hall would allow."

Dickens makes reference, in a letter written from Edinburgh, to this wish of the Scotch public for the "Murder" reading. "As I have determined not to do the 'Oliver' murder until after the 5th of January, when I shall ascertain its effect on a great audience, it is curious to notice how the shadow of its coming affects the Scotch mind. It is a very, very bad day here, very dark and very wet. I am sitting at a side window, looking up the length of Princes Street, watching the mist change over the castle, and murdering Nancy by turns."

Dolby mentions that on the Sunday they had a pleasant walk up Arthur's seat, "which did much to calm Mr. Dickens's nerves after the shaking of the journey by the 'Flying Scotsman,' from which he had suffered much." On the way the novelist had calculated that the shocks received by the nerves in a long journey by express train, as from London to Edinburgh, would be thirty thousand! Dolby also remarks that Sunday is "never a joyous or pleasant time in Scotland."

This is the view Dickens gave on that subject contained in a letter written from Edinburgh at this time:—"You know the aspect of this city on a Sunday, and how gay and bright it is? The merry music of the blithe bells, the waving flags, the prettily decorated houses with their draperies of various colours, and the radiant countenances at the windows and in the streets, how charming they are! The usual preparations are making for the band in the open air, in the afternoon: and the usual pretty children (selected for that purpose) are at this moment hanging garlands round the Scott monument preparatory to the innocent Sunday dance round that edifice, with which the diversions invariably close."

This letter is more like Thackeray than Dickens, but the sarcasm is always kindly.

On the following Saturday Messrs. Peter Fraser, Ballantyne, and John Blackwood—the sole survivors of that earlier time when Dickens had received so much kindness and hospitality in the Scottish capital—dined with Dickens, Mr. Russell (Editor of the *Scotsman*), also being one of the party, and as Dolby tells us the evening was spent in recalling the old associations of the days of Auld Lang Syne. "Peter Fraser sang as he only could sing the songs that Lord Jeffrey most delighted in, and Ballantyne recited the older poems, bringing back to our host the recollections of five-and-twenty years previously."

Here are a few brief extracts from the letters written at this period.

"We had a great crush and a wonderful audience in Edinburgh last night."

Writing from Glasgow, Dickens says:—

"My old liking of Boston to Edinburgh has been constantly revived within those last ten days. There is a certain similarity of *tone* between the two places. The audiences are curiously alike, except that the Edinburgh audience has a quicker sense of humour, and is a little more genial. No disparagement to Boston in this, because I consider an Edinburgh audience perfect." A reference to Glasgow is interesting. "The atmosphere of this place, compounded of mists from the Highlands, and smoke from the town factories, is crushing my eyebrows as I write, and it rains as it never does rain anywhere else, and always does rain here. It is a dreadful place, though much improved and possessing a deal of public spirit. Improvement is beginning to knock the old town of Edinburgh about, here and there, but the Canongate, and the most picturesque of the horrible courts and wynds are not to be easily spoiled, or made fit for the poor wretches who people them, to live in. Edinburgh is so changed as to its notabilities that I had only three men left of the Wilson and Jeffrey time to dine with me there last Saturday."

"I send another *Scotsman* by this post, because it is really a good newspaper, well written, and well managed. We had an immense house here last night, and a very large turn-away."

"The keeper of the Edinburgh Hall, a fine old soldier, presented me on Friday night with the finest red camellia for my button-hole that ever was seen. Nobody can imagine how he came by it, as the florists had a considerable demand for that colour . . . and could get no such thing."

Late in 1868 Dickens declined to become Member of Parliament for Edinburgh.

In 1869 the farewell series of readings were continued, and once more, and for the last time, Dickens came to Edinburgh.

(To be concluded.)

READINGS FROM DICKENS

As Arranged and Read by Himself.

THE wonderful power and genius Dickens displayed as a public reader of his own writings has so often been insisted upon by those who were fortunate enough to hear him—alas, diminishing rapidly in point of numbers every day—that the present generation of Dickensians know the story of the way he captivated and fascinated his audiences as well as they know the story of his remarkable success in other directions. It has been said that, had it not been for an accident, Dickens would probably have been a great actor instead of a great author. As it turned out, he was both, and he indulged his former capacity to the full when he chose to give public readings from his own writings. These he arranged to suit his own particular powers, and his publishers, Messrs. Chapman & Hall, have just issued a volume* containing the complete series as he adapted them and read them himself in this country and in America.

One of the many contemporary critics who came under the novelist's spell was the late John Hollingshead, who never missed an opportunity of sitting under the "master," as he called him, when he appeared on a public platform, and at the time when Dickens was at the height of his fame John Hollingshead contributed an article on this particular phase of the novelist's genius to one of the magazines, and in it he gives a vivid picture of the effect Dickens's dramatic force had upon his audience.

"Mr. Dickens's readings, or illustrations, as we prefer to call them," says Mr. Hollingshead, "are running, critical commentaries upon his own works. With all the self-possession, the flexibility of voice, and the facial expression of a trained actor, it is not surprising that Mr. Dickens should be able to cause his own creations to live and move before our eyes. Possessing all the bodily requirements, the conception of character alone is wanted: and there is abundant evidence of the existence of this in the creative fertility of his books. No original dramatic author, no writer of dramatic fiction in the form of novels, whose characters impress their forms upon the page in their own language out of their own mouths, can fail to be in heart, mind, and soul a natural mimic, or actor. Every character in Mr. Dickens's novels, drawn in the first instance from observation, must have been dramatically embodied—acted over, so to speak, a hundred times in the process of development and transference to the written page: and the qualities of voice, nerve, and presence being granted, Mr. Dickens merely passes over that ground, in the face of a large and attentive audience, which he has often passed over before in the undisturbed privacy of his study. Where the pure actor's art is shown, as distinguished from the dramatic quality inherent in all character-creators, is in certain small alterations of the text of his printed book, so minute as to escape the eye of any but a critical observer, but purposely made to produce effective points."

* *Readings from the Works of Charles Dickens*, as arranged and read by himself. London: Chapman & Hall. 2s. 6d. net.

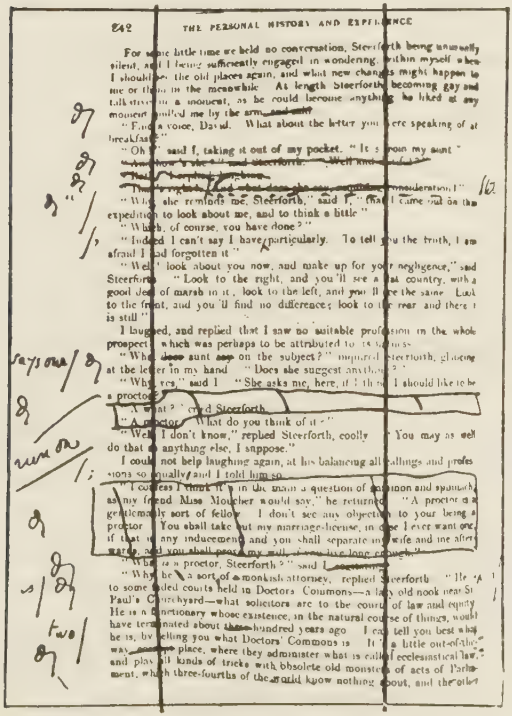
The article from which this is extracted forms the preface to the volume, occupies several pages, and deals in detail with the whole scope and power of the reader as well as of the readings.

The unique value of the works of the novelist for platform recital is becoming more and more generally realised, and no better guide for this purpose can be found than these extracts arranged especially for public performance, and used before so many thousands by their "only begetter" himself.

It has for frontispiece the portrait of Dickens in the act of giving a public reading, painted by Alfred Bryan, which we reproduce in our present number, and there can be no doubt that it will be in great demand amongst admirers of Dickens's writings and of elocutionists in general.

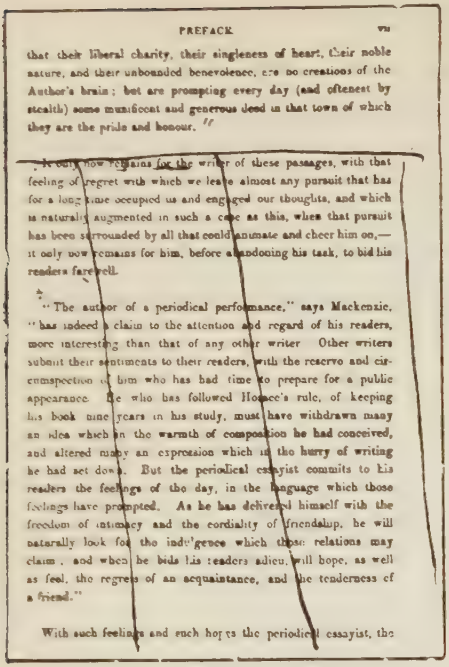
HOW DICKENS CORRECTED HIS PROOFS

IN that interesting book by Mr. E. S. Williamson entitled "Glimpses of Dickens" he gives facsimile reproductions of a page from *David Copperfield* and one from *Nicholas Nickleby* with deletions and corrections by Dickens, and we are able, through his courtesy, to present them to our readers.



CORRECTED PAGE OF "DAVID COPPERFIELD."

In the one from *David Copperfield* it will be seen that Steerforth's remark to Copperfield parodying the eccentricities of Miss Mowcher's speech, "A question of gammon and spinnach"—with a superfluous *n* in the last word—has been struck out; and there are many smaller alterations which show the extraordinary care that Dickens bestowed upon "his favourite child" when correcting the proof sheets. It will also be seen that he knocked a whole century out of the term of existence of that sort of "monkish attorney," a proctor.



PREFACE vii

that their liberal charity, their singleness of heart, their noble nature, and their unbounded benevolence, are no creations of the Author's brain; but are prompting every day (and oftenest by stealth) some munificent and generous deed in that town of which they are the pride and honour."

It only now remains for the writer of these passages, with that feeling of regret with which we leave almost any pursuit that has for a long time occupied us and engaged our thoughts, and which is naturally augmented in such a case as this, when that pursuit has been surrounded by all that could animate and cheer him on,—it only now remains for him, before abandoning his task, to bid his readers farewell.

"The author of a periodical performance," says Mackenzie, "has indeed a claim to the attention and regard of his readers, more interesting than that of any other writer. Other writers submit their sentiments to their readers, with the reserve and circumspection of him who has had time to prepare for a public appearance. He who has followed Horace's rule, of keeping his book nine years in his study, must have withdrawn many an idea which in the warmth of composition he had conceived, and altered many an expression which in the hurry of writing he had set down. But the periodical essayist commits to his readers the feelings of the day, in the language which those feelings have prompted. As he has delivered himself with the freedom of intimacy and the cordiality of friendship, he will naturally look for the indulgence which those relations may claim; and when he bids his readers adieu, will hope, as well as feel, the regrets of an acquaintance, and the tenderness of a friend."

With such feelings and such hopes the periodical essayist, the

CORRECTED PROOF OF "NICHOLAS NICKLEBY."

It should be stated that the two black vertical lines represent the pieces of silk cord used to tie the leaves when this facsimile was taken.

The page from the preface to *Nicholas Nickleby* shows how Dickens cut it down after it appeared in the serial form. Interesting and pointed as the deleted parts seem to us today, they doubtless appeared unnecessary to him at the time, for they did not re-appear, as did most of the rest, when he wrote that longer preface to the first cheap edition, in which he dealt more fully with the Squeers incident.

The manuscript of *Nicholas Nickleby* is one of those which have entirely vanished.

GRANT RICHARDS' PENNY CLASSICS

Mr. Grant Richards has taken the courageous step of starting a library of "Penny Classics," the first two volumes of which have already appeared. Every week two or more volumes of the series will be published, each containing some forty pages, or 40,000 words of well-printed matter. The longer works will be published weekly and serially until they are complete. Thus *David Copperfield*, which has already begun, will be completed in about twelve parts, and Tennyson's Poems in four or five volumes. The advantage claimed for the scheme is that even those who are able to spend only a penny per week can now collect a library of the most famous books in the English language carefully printed in clear type. If this scheme will supplant the "penny dreadful," "Grant Richards's Penny Classics" deserves success.

In *David Copperfield* a selection of the original illustrations is given, which are by no means badly reproduced considering the cheapness of the publication.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF "ALL THE YEAR ROUND"

IT will be remembered that last year Messrs. Chapman & Hall issued the Christmas numbers of *Household Words* in their complete form, as originally published, with the name of the author of each chapter given. This year they have issued those of *All the Year Round* in the same style and price, namely, one shilling net each.

When each of these stories appeared it was not known—indeed the information has only recently been made available—who the authors of the various chapters were. As we explained last year, the framework or plan of the stories was prepared by Dickens, who contributed two or more chapters himself, and invited other authors to write the remaining ones. So well did these authors imitate and fall in with Dickens's ideas that it was difficult to detect which chapters were his and which were not. In 1868, however, Dickens detached his work from the rest, and issued it as the volume known as "Christmas Stories from 'Household Words' and 'All the Year Round,'" and which forms a part of the various editions of his works. In several cases the stories in this volume read a little strange in their detached form, and so it will be seen what a service has been rendered in making the complete tales available to the public. When they appeared in their blue paper covers years ago, they created the greatest possible excitement and interest in their anonymous form. No Christmas literature of modern time has ever approached it for success. They were written by the very best writers of the day—the cream of Victorian authors—including such names as Hesba Stretton, G. A. Sala, Adelaide Procter, Wilkie Collins, Mrs. Gaskell, C. A. Collins, Amelia B. Edwards, John Oxenford, Arthur Locker, Holme Lee, Robert Buchanan, Edmund Yates, and others, and their work has been so accurately identified that each chapter in each story has its rightful author's name given. The volumes in the present series belonged to the *All the Year Round* period, and comprise "The Haunted House," "A Message from the Sea," "Tom Tiddler's Ground," "Somebody's Luggage," "Mrs. Lirriper's Lodgings," "Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy," "Doctor Marigold's Prescriptions," "Mugby Junction," and "No Thoroughfare." Each volume has a coloured frontispiece by Audley Gunston, and the nine volumes, uniform with the nine from *Household Words* published last year, make a unique and charming Christmas present.

MR. ARTHUR W. HAYES AT TOTTENHAM

Dickensians in North London will be interested to learn that Mr. Arthur W. Hayes will give a recital of *David Copperfield*, with character impersonations of Micawber, Uriah Heep, and Daniel Peggotty, at the Public Hall, Tottenham, on November 4th, in aid of St. John's Road Primitive Methodist Church, Woodberry. Mr. Hayes is the well-known Dickens exponent, and this is the third time he has visited Tottenham.

A DICKENS ANECDOTE

By HELEN FAUCIT

JULIET. "What devil art thou, that does torment me thus?
This torture should be roar'd in dismal hell.
Hath Romeo slain himself?"

THE words quoted in the text bring back to me an evening in Mr. Macready's drawing-room. The party was a mixed one of grown-up people and children. We had gone through many games and dances, when some one suggested the game of "Proverbs." "The devil is never so black as he is painted" was selected. The questioner, Mr. Maclise, the painter, challenged me for the second word, and I had to get it into my answer. Imagine my confusion, which, alas! every one seemed to enjoy. I was on the point of giving up as I could think of no suitable reply to bring in the word. But when the general merriment and my nervousness were at their height, some one behind my chair whispered, "What did you say to the nurse last night, when she was keeping you in that cruel suspense?" In an instant I sprang up and said, "What devil art thou that dost torment me thus." I suppose quotations were allowed, for I was applauded, and a great deal of merriment followed. I looked round for my friendly helper, and saw Charles Dickens stealing away unsuspected by any one, and looking as though he had casually left his seat for no especial purpose. When I thanked him afterwards for his help he turned it off, "Oh, the words must have come into your head—how should I have thought of them?"

This was the way he did his kindnesses—never so happy as when doing them. (From *Some of Shakespeare's Female Characters*. By HELEN FAUCIT.)

AN EARLY LETTER OF DICKENS

WE are able through the courtesy of Messrs. H. Sotheran & Co., the well-known booksellers of Piccadilly, to reproduce in facsimile a letter of Dickens written during the Pickwick period, in 1837. As will be seen, it was written in Furnival's Inn, but, unfortunately, has no date to it.

W. Jerdan was a contributor to *Bentley's Miscellany*, and it is interesting to note that later on Jerdan complained at the way Dickens treated another article of his, to which the editor replied: "It is really very unfair of you to charge any mistakes in your last paper upon me. . . . I can have no object but to please my contributors to the best of my power, more especially yourself, and this is very discouraging indeed."

The letter we reproduce is one of a series which Messrs. Sotheran have for sale, and is valuable as being one of those early letters of the novelist which are gradually becoming very scarce. Most of the other letters in the catalogue have some connection with Dickens's editorial career, and it would be interesting to trace the articles to which they refer.

Furnival's Inn
Saturday Morning

My Dear Sir

I inclose you a proof of John Richardson which you will perhaps have the goodness to revise and return to me directly.

I have been compelled by great press of matter to cut it a little here and there, but I hope you will not think the effect of the paper impaired thereby. I have been obliged to perform the same kind office among other articles, and was last month at the very greatest disadvantage.

Dickens has
Dear Sir
Faithfully Yours
Charles Dickens

W. Tudor Esq.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF CHARLES DICKENS, 1837

A DICKENS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

THE Dickens Fellowship Dramatic Society has arranged a Christmas Festival in aid of London hospitals, at which will be presented a new play, entitled "Dolly Varden," a Comedy in Three Acts, adapted from *Barnaby Rudge*, by Walter Dexter, at the following London theatres:—

The King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W., on Monday, December 16th.

The Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, N., on Tuesday, December 17th.

The Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E., on Friday, December 20th.

At the latter theatre the proceeds will be devoted to Guy's Hospital, where, it will be remembered, Mr. Bob Sawyer was a medical student. Early application for seats should be made direct to the theatres. Members of the Dramatic Society can obtain seats from the Hon. Secretary. The performances commence at 8 o'clock.

The cast includes Miss H. Pearl Humphry as Mrs. Varden and Miss Kathleen Marriott as Miss Miggs. For the name part the Society has been fortunate in obtaining the services of Miss Lorraine-Stevens, an actress of experience, who will make of Dolly a charming and fascinating heroine. Mr. Frank Staff, who scored such a success last year as Toots, will play Simon Tappertit, and Mr. Fredk. T. Harry will be Mr. Varden. The play will be produced by Mr. A. E. Brookes Cross.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

CHARITABLE AND NEEDLEWORK GUILD

WILL members please note the slight alteration which has been made in the title of the Guild? The Committee hope that by giving greater prominence to its charitableness, which is now so far-reaching, more members—especially gentlemen members—may be induced to join. At the present time we have several sad cases on our hands, some of actual starvation. Will any one assist us with the following? We want work—odd job of any kind, or his own trade—for a poor bookbinder out of work, who is struggling to support a family of motherless young children; also we want to keep a home over the head of an old widow lady in great trouble lest she be removed to the workhouse because no longer able to pay her rent. If a few friends will subscribe threepence or sixpence per week regularly, we can raise sufficient to remove this anxiety. The subscription is already started, but our own funds will not allow us to use the required sum each week on one person. Will others help?

Our Annual Bazaar will be held, as usual, at St. Bride's Institute, during the first week in December. The actual date will be announced shortly. Gifts of any suitable description may be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary or Treasurer, Miss E. M. Miniken, care of Housekeeper, at St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., not earlier than November 27th, but letters or cheques must be sent to her at headquarters.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The second annual general meeting of the above was held on September 26th at the Rehearsal Room of the Amateur Players' Association, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., with Mr. B. W. Matz in the chair.

Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree was again elected President of the Society, and to the list of Vice-Presidents the name of Mr. W. Teignmouth Shore was added. Reference was made in the last issue of *The Dickensian* to the retirement of Mr. Shore from the position of Hon. Stage Manager of the Society, and on this occasion the members of the cast of the "House of Dombey" presented him with a gold-mounted amber cigarette holder in a solid silver case as a mark of their esteem and in affectionate remembrance of many happy hours.

Mr. A. E. Brookes Cross was unanimously elected to fill the post made vacant by the retirement of Mr. Teignmouth Shore, and Mr. Frank Staff was elected Assistant Hon. Stage Manager. On another page full particulars are given of the Dickens Christmas Festival organised by the Society.

BIRMINGHAM.—The first meeting of the session of the Birmingham branch was held on October 4th, at the Association Lecture Hall, the chair being taken by Mr. Edward F. Braham. The evening was devoted to the study of *Bleak House*, and readings were given by the Rev. H. Twyford, who chose for his subject "The death of poor Jo." Mr. W. H. Martin gave "Esther's journey from Oxford to Reading." Mr. R. J. Taylor, "Mrs. Bagnet's birthday"; Mr. C. Askew, "Mrs. Pardiggle's visit to Bleak House and the Brickmakers"; Mr. E. Pratt, "Jo and Mr. Chadband at Mr. Snagsby's." A very enjoyable evening was spent, and at the close the secretary (Mr. Yoxall) announced that twenty new members had given in their names.

BLACKHEATH, LEE, AND LEWISHAM BRANCH.—The annual meeting was held on October 17th, when Mr. J. W. T. Ley, Hon. Gen. Sec. of the Fellowship, presided over a good attendance. The evening was of unusual interest, because it was the last which Mr. James E. Palmer, the founder of the branch, and its Hon. Secretary from the beginning, would attend in that official capacity. The services that Mr. Palmer had rendered to the branch were acknowledged in two ways—first, by his election as a Vice-President; and, secondly, by a handsome presentation. Mrs. Woodford Sowray handed to Mr. Palmer, on behalf of the members, a marble clock bearing a suitable inscription. She briefly referred to Mr. Palmer's work and the members' appreciation of it, and she mentioned as a particularly pleasing fact that four old people who had been assisted by the branch's charitable fund had voluntarily subscribed to the testimonial fund. Mrs. Sowray also paid a tribute to Mrs. Palmer's work in the branch's interests. The chairman added a few words of appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer's work. Mr. Palmer briefly acknowledged the gift, remarking that it was the spirit that prompted it that he more particularly valued. Miss Edith Sayers presented the report of the Ladies' Needlework Party, which was of an eminently pleasing nature, showing that much charitable work had been done. Mr. A. J. Terry and Mr. H. Weston Wells were elected joint Hon. Secretaries.

BRIGHTON.—The annual general meeting was held at Steine House on September 21st, 1907. Mr. Henry Davey presided over a good attendance of members. The hon. secretary read the annual report, which was most satisfactory from every point of view. The membership showed an increase of 33, and the attendance at the various meetings has been

larger and more enthusiastic. The balance-sheet showed that a deficit of £1 10s. 4d. had been turned into a balance of 10s. 9d. The hon. secretary also read a report of the Ladies' Needlework Guild, stating that an increase of thirty-five had been made on the garments distributed. Both reports were formally adopted. Mr. Henry Davey was re-elected President of the Branch, Mr. Francis J. Gauntlett hon. secretary, and Mr. W. F. Fowler assistant hon. secretary. The vice-presidents and committee were re-elected, with the addition of Mrs. W. F. Fowler and Miss Goring to the latter. Saturday was the day of the week selected for meeting, and an attractive syllabus was drawn up.

The opening meeting of the session was held at Steine House on the 12th October, when Mr. Henry Davey presided over a crowded audience. An interesting programme of recitations was submitted. Miss Goring was very amusing in a selection from *Sketches by Boz*, and Mr. W. F. Fowler submitted the speech of Sergeant Buzfuz with great success. Miss Russell Davies depicted the scene in which Sidney Carton rescues Darnay in the *Tale of Two Cities*. This selection was splendidly rendered. Miss Marjorie Smith recited very sweetly a phase of Little Paul's life from *Dombey and Son*, and Mr. Francis J. Gauntlett completed an excellent programme with a selection from *David Copperfield*. During the interval refreshments were served. The next meeting will be held on 2nd November, when a lecture recital will be given by the Rev. Jos. Gay. Intending members should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Francis J. Gauntlett, 71, Ship Street.

BRIXTON.—On October 8th, in the Ladies' Parlour of the Brixton Independent Church, there was a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. R. Allbut presided. A lecture, illustrated by oxyhydrogen views, was given by Mr. Arthur Humphreys, of the Manchester branch, on "Switzerland and its Associations with Dickens." The several localities referred to in our author's correspondence with his home and friends were reviewed, including the Simplon Pass and Hospice, Lausanne and Cathedral, Rosemont Villa, Martigny, Gorge du Trient, Cantine de Proz, Hospice and Chapel of the Great St. Bernard, Chamonix and Mont Blanc, Monument of Balmat and Saussure, Andermatt, Devil's Bridge, Castle of Chillon, Geneva, and many others. These pictures were accompanied with a chatty commentary by the lecturer, and by readings from the letters of Dickens and from *Little Dorrit*. The social evenings, as originally proposed, for progressive whist having been displaced by the church organ recitals, it was arranged to hold them at Raleigh Hall (near the Brixton Free Library), on November 25th, December 23rd, January 27th, and March 23rd. Entrance fee, 6d.

Monday, October 21st, in the Lecture Hall, Brixton Independent Church. Chair was taken at 8 p.m. by Mr. Sidney Marriott, the commodious hall being well filled by an expectant audience. The evening was delightfully occupied by a lecture given by Mr. William E. Gaze entitled "Paris as Dickens knew it"; also comprehending a wider range of interest, as dealing with the general history of the French metropolis—Royal, Imperial and Republican. Graphic, humorous, lucid and entertaining, the lecturer evinced a racy originality of style peculiarly his own, and fully commanded the sympathetic appreciation of his hearers. The oxyhydrogen illustrations provided were numerous and excellent, enhancing the general satisfaction. A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Gaze, and carried "with tumult of acclaim."

DUBLIN.—The first annual general meeting was held on October 10th in the Sackville Café, which was crowded by an enthusiastic gathering of members and friends. The chair was occupied by the President, Sir

Charles Cameron, C.B., who delivered an interesting address, in the course of which he congratulated the branch on the progress it had made since its inauguration last July, and expressed the hope that it would continue to prosper until it became equal in membership and efficiency to the best in the English provinces. The Hon. Organising Secretary (Mr. Geo. A. Prescott) submitted a report in which it was stated that since its establishment the branch had enrolled 93 members, and also outlined the programme for the ensuing session, which contains many interesting fixtures, including a visit from Mr. Martin Harvey (Vice-President of the Fellowship) and Mrs. Harvey during their forthcoming season in Dublin. An enjoyable programme of music and recitals was then gone through. Miss Eira C. Haise sang two songs with great taste and expression, and the Misses Alton contributed pianoforte and violin solos, which were beautifully rendered, and won the hearty applause of the audience. Mr. W. H. Huish (Vice-President) gave a splendid impersonation of Sergeant Buzfuz's famous speech. He also gave several other humorous sketches during the evening, which kept the meeting in a continual state of merriment. Mr. D. Swaine read the murder of Nancy by Sikes with great power, and Mr. M. D. Collins's reading of "The Dancing Academy" was given in inimitable style. Mr. Collins prefaced his reading with some apt remarks on the genius of Dickens.

The election of Professor Dowden as a Vice-President was received with enthusiasm. Mr. J. C. Shaw was elected to serve on the committee in the place of Mrs. Culwick, resigned, and the following were added: —Mr. McHardy-Flint, Mr. John Hosie, Mrs. McHardy-Flint, and Mr. W. J. Preston. At the close of the meeting many new members were enrolled, the number to date being 150.

FOREST GATE.—The annual general meeting was held on Thursday, October 10th. The secretary's report showing an increase of six in membership was adopted. The treasurer, Mr. H. E. Deighton, presented a balance-sheet, which showed a balance on the right side of £1 18s. 7d., after paying off last year's deficit of £2 12s. 9d. It is proposed to give a party to a large number of poor children either just before or just after Christmas. The collecting cards, which were issued for this object, have brought in a sum upwards of £4 10s. Mr. Ernest Gray was elected President of the branch, and the Vice-Presidents are Mrs. Saunders Jacobs, Councillor Saunders Jacobs, G. B. Sim, Esq., Dr. V. J. Batteson, Rev. G. McLuckie, Mr. Arthur Banes, Mr. Massey, Rev. G. T. Whitehead, and Rev. A. Prichard. Mr. C. E. Edson was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Mr. H. E. Deighton Hon. Treasurer; Messrs. J. P. Gillar and A. Davies were re-elected Hon. Auditors. Mr. C. Wheeler presided. The Committee is Miss J. Niedermann, Miss Elsa Barton, Mrs. C. Beal, and Messrs. Wheeler, Webb and Trott.

HULL.—The society opened its third session last month at the Shakespeare Hall, Story Street, when their new President, Mr. H. B. Browne, M.A., drew the attention of the members to the excellent syllabus for the season. He gave a very interesting address, which was illustrated with a powerful lantern, showing some of the most notable places and old buildings associated with Dickens's life and works. Mr. Holgate Ellison, hon. secretary, gave impersonations of Major Bagstock from *Dombey and Son*, Little Nell's Grandfather and Daniel Quilp from the *Old Curiosity Shop*, which were much appreciated. Several new members were enrolled at the close.

MANHATTAN.—Great progress has been made in this branch during the year just ending. Thirty-four new members were elected, and the

branch is in a better condition than ever, and a most successful year is looked forward to. Thirteen meetings were held and two dinners, at which Mr. Bransby Williams and Mr. Frank Speaight were among the guests. An entertainment for the Home for Incurables was held, and donations of clothing and tobacco were given to the home, whilst two cots in the Home for Crippled Children have been endowed for four years each as a result of the branch's charitable efforts, and are known as Tiny Tim cots.

PHILADELPHIA.—The Philadelphia Branch of the Dickens Fellowship held the first meeting of the season on October 9th, at the Widener Library. Dr. Henry Leffmann, first Vice-President, presided. Mr. John C. Eckel, President, presented a paper entitled "Dickens's First Editions." He first explained that the value of any book depends upon the demand for it, the popularity of the author, the state of preservation of the book, and, of course, the scarcity of that particular work. He followed with a brief summary of the values of the most notable of Dickens's works in first editions, showing pamphlets of *Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, and *Edwin Drood* from his own complete collection of first editions. Mr. Jacob R. Thompson gave a reading, and again convulsed his audience, this time with "Bob Sawyer's Party." Mr. Chas. Sessle, lately returned from England, gave a description of his reception by members of the London Fellowship. The final speaker was Mr. John Thomson, Librarian of the Free Libraries of Philadelphia. Places made famous by Dickens were quite familiar to the speaker, whose youth was spent in London, and an enjoyable ramble about London with Mr. Thomson was highly entertaining. The climax of the evening was reached when a picture of Sidney Carton was thrown on the screen, and Mr. Thomson passionately called for more such authors as could produce "caricatures" so noble and so human.

SHEFFIELD.—The annual meeting in connection with the branch was held on October 14th at the Cutlers' Hall. The annual report, presented by Mr. Padmore, showed that the branch finished the year with 615 members, showing an increase of 42 over last year. During the year there had been seven Committee meetings, seven ordinary monthly social meetings at the Cutlers' Hall, two very successful smoking concerts at the Royal Victoria Hotel, and Mr. Frank Speaight had given a recital of "The Christmas Carol" at the Montgomery Hall under the auspices of the branch. The Dramatic Society of the branch had also given a free performance of "The Cricket on the Hearth." With respect to next session Mr. Speaight had been booked for "The Carol" again, and Mr. William Miles, of London, had been booked to give "Dombey and Son." Seven ordinary monthly meetings would be held during the session, a smoking concert would be organised, and the branch Dramatic Society hoped to give two or three Dickensian plays or sketches before the close of the session.

The hon. treasurer's reading of the balance-sheet for the year showed that the branch had during last session spent £11 2s. in providing some 600 free teas to destitute children, and had contributed £2 2s. towards the funds of the Sheffield Boys' Working Home. The bank book showed a balance in hand at the end of the session of slightly over £15.

The whole of last year's Vice-Presidents were re-elected, but the President will be appointed at a future meeting. Mr. T. W. Padmore was re-elected Hon. Branch Secretary, with Messrs. C. W. and E. Darwin as assistants. Miss L. H. Rhodes was appointed the Hon. Branch Treasurer. The other appointments were: Mrs. T. H. Warskett, Hon. Secretary of the branch Dramatic Society; Mr. J. W. Lee, Hon. Branch Librarian; Council, Mrs. T. H. Warskett, Miss H. Roberts, and Messrs.

James Dyal, J. G. Hydes, R. W. Dodsworth, G. W. Parker, C. R. Smith, J. K. Lee, W. Leggett, J. Abey, E. Darwin, T. H. Warskett, and T. C. Wild.

TORONTO.—The branch held two delightful open-air functions during the summer—the annual picnic at Centre Island in July, which was largely attended; and a lawn party on September 14th. On the latter occasion the attractions included orchestral and other musical numbers, a scientific palmist, and a professor of phrenology (both members of the branch!). Young ladies dressed as Dickens characters dispensed light refreshments. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated, and the affair has been generally spoken of as most successful and enjoyable. The membership continues to increase steadily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

SIR,—I think it may interest your readers to note a little error that has crept into the later editions of this book, and which, so far as I know, has escaped the numerous microscopic eyes which are habitually turned upon everything that Dickens wrote. In Chapter XXV. Pip pays a visit to Wemmick at Walworth, and says: "It appeared to be a collection of *back* lanes, ditches, and little gardens," &c., and this, as I can testify from an intimate personal knowledge of Walworth half a century ago, was an admirable description of the locality. Dickens certainly wrote "back lanes," and thus it stands when the story first appeared in "All the Year Round," as well as in the first three-volume edition. But, by a curious blunder, "*black* lanes" has been printed in most of the subsequent editions—perhaps in all of them—and this turns the passage into nonsense; for Walworth, though, goodness knows, dismal enough, wasn't *black*. It is to be hoped that Messrs. Chapman & Hall will put this right when they bring out the book in their new "National Edition" next November.

While on the subject, I may as well mention another little circumstance. About the time that Dickens wrote the book there was a shop (a greengrocer's, I think) in the Kent Road, about ten minutes' walk from the "back lanes" in question, and over the front of this shop was the name of "Skiffins." I do not doubt that the author, while prowling about the neighbourhood, noted this, and jotted it down as a suitable name for Wemmick's sweetheart.

Yours truly,

F.

"GUINEA-PIG JACK," OF BATH

SIR,—Did the above ever come within the ken of Dickens? This peculiar-looking Italian with his guinea-pigs was well known for nearly sixty years to the inhabitants of and visitors to Bath. He died last year, of the supposed age of seventy-six. He was not good at figures, measuring everything by twenties, and apparently had no idea of figures above or below that number; everything with him had a 20 in it, as Phil Squod had an 8; so perhaps he was twenty when he came to England. Mr. Dean Howells, the American writer, said of him every inch of his 5ft. was suggestive of Dickens.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR SCHOMBERG.

Seend, Melksham.

A DICKENS CONCORDANCE

SIR,—The writer of the article in the October number on my "Dickens Concordance" appears to misunderstand the purport of the book. It is not intended as a rival to larger and more expensive works, neither does it claim to be a synopsis of Dickens's books, but simply, as stated, a "Compendium of names and characters and principal places mentioned," which are also summarised in each chapter, and alphabetically indexed in the third division (of which I am glad to see your reviewer approves), that being really the important part of the book, and conveying the idea of the whole, which is to enable all names to be easily localised.

Yours truly,

MARY WILLIAMS.

DICKENSIANA MONTH BY MONTH

BOOKS.

Christmas Stories. 2 volumes. In the "National" Edition. (Sold in sets only.) London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net each.

Little Dorrit, Christmas Books, Christmas Stories and *Master Humphrey's Clock* and *Edwin Drood*, completing the series. In the "Popular" Edition. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1s. net each cloth; 2s. net each leather.

Dickens's Christmas Books. 5 volumes. With coloured illustrations. London: W. Collins & Sons. 1s. net each.

Mr. Pickwick is sued for Breach of Promise. With frontispiece in colour. "The Langham Library of Humour," No. 1. London: Siegel Hill & Co. 6d. net.

A Christmas Carol. With 13 coloured and other illustrations by John Leech and Fred Barnard, and an Introduction by Sir William P. Treloar, Bart. Published in aid of the "Home for Crippled Children." London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.

The Christmas Numbers from "All the Year Round." Complete as originally published with the author's name to each chapter. 9 volumes. With coloured frontispiece to each. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1s. net cloth; 2s. net leather.

The Charles Dickens Birthday Book. With portrait. London: McCaw, Stevenson & Orr.

Readings from the Works of Charles Dickens as arranged and read by himself. With introduction by John Hollingshead, and a portrait. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.

Forster's Life of Dickens. Uniform with the "Fireside" and "Oxford India Paper" editions. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 2s. net and 2s. 6d. net cloth; 3s. 6d. net leather.

CALENDARS.

"Marcus Ward's Dickens Calendars," in two styles. London: McCaw Stevenson & Orr. 1s. each.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

"The Dickens Memorial." *Wimbourne Herald, Primitive Methodist World*, September 19; *Cheltenham Looker-on*, September 28; *Broadstairs Echo*, September 28.

"How to Study Dickens." *The Reader*, September 21.

"Dickens on the Stage: Mr. Charles Collette's Peep into the Future." *Cardiff Western Mail*, September 24.

"Barnard's Inn Tavern." Illustrated. *Morning Leader*, September 27.

"Memories of Dickens and Thackeray." By Sir Theodore Martin. *Great Thoughts*, September 28.

"Mr. Pickwick, M.P., Dead." Illustrated. *News of the World*, September 29.

"In Old Southwark." By George Mackenzie. *Inverness Courier*, October 1.

"Mrs. Fanny Burnett *née* Dickens." *The Signal*, October 2.

"The Beginnings of the Shadwell Hospital" (Dickens's interest in). *British Medical Journal*, October 5.

"David Copperfield's Home." *Wandsworth Boro' News*, October 5.

"Fairy Stories: What Dickens Thought." *The Tribune*, October 5.

"The Dickens Fellowship Conference and Dinner." *Daily Telegraph*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Daily Graphic*, *The Tribune*, *Birmingham Post*, and other papers, October 7.

"Eatanswill: Ipswich or Sudbury." By Henry Woollen. *The Crown*, October 12.

"Hard Times." *Acton & Chiswick Gazette*, October 11.

"Dickens and the Two Wellers." By Samuel Watson. *Staffordshire Chronicle*, October 12.

"Dickens and the Prophets." *The Reader*, October 12.

"Mr. Comyns Carr and 'Edwin Drood.'" By Percy Cross Standing. *Westminster Gazette*, October 14. Letter on same by B. W. Matz, October 15.

"Dickens as a Social Reformer." By A. W. Ward. *National Home Reading Magazine*, October.

DIARY OF DICKENS MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

1. Hull Branch: "The Uncommercial Traveller," by Mr. T. H. Leahair, at Lecture Hall, Kingston Square, at 8.
2. Brighton Branch: An Evening with "Immortal Pickwick," by Rev. Jos. Gay, at Steine House, Old Steine, at 8.
4. Birmingham Branch: Recital of "The Pickwick Papers," by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Masonic Hall, New Street, at 8.
5. Liverpool Branch: "Possibilities of the Newspapers," by John Lee, B.A., at Royal Institute, at 8.
8. Manchester Branch: Lantern Lecture, "Alpine Dickens Land," by Mr. Arthur Humphreys (Chairman, Mr. John Harwood), at Onward Hall, at 8.
13. Chesterfield Branch: Recital of "A Christmas Carol," by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Market Hall.
    Headquarters Meeting: Lecture by Mr. Arthur Waugh and Readings, at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., at 8.
15. Hull Branch: "Martin Chuzzlewit" and Discussion, at Lecture Hall, Kingston Square, at 8.
18. Southampton Branch: "My Reminiscences of Charles Dickens's Readings, with Illustrations," by Rev. W. A. C. Chevalier, at Mount Pleasant Council School, at 8.
    Brixton Branch: Paper on Dickens, by Mr. Sydney Marriott, at Brixton Independent Church, at 8.
19. Liverpool Branch: "Brand's Ibsen," by the Rev. T. H. Martin, M.A., at Royal Institute, at 8.
27. Gravesend Branch: Recital of "David Copperfield," by Mr. Frank Speaight, at Public Hall.
28. West London Branch: Monthly Meeting, at Municipal Buildings, Ealing, at 8.
29. Hull Branch: "Martin Chuzzlewit" Discussion continued, at Lecture Hall, Kingston Square, at 8.

The Dickens Fellowship

FOUNDED OCTOBER 6, 1902.

President: HENRY F. DICKENS, K.C.

Past-President: PERCY FITZGERALD, M.A., F.A.S.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1906-7.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),

Once more it falls to my lot to review a year's progress of the Dickens Fellowship. And in presenting this, the fifth, annual report of our Society, I do not use the word "progress" in any empty sense, for it may be fairly claimed that since our modest beginning on October 6, 1902, we have never looked back.

MEMBERSHIP.

In face of what I have just written, it may seem a contradiction when I immediately proceed to report a decrease in our actual paid-up membership for the year. For whereas we ended last year with 5,002 members good on our books, we have no more than 4,540 paid-up members at the end of the year 1906-7. But, in reality, the discrepancy is not so marked as at first it appears to be. First of all, it should be noted that the year just ended was a short year. At the Manchester Conference in October, 1906, it was decided that the financial year should end in future on August 31, instead of on September 30, as heretofore. But, in addition, we have lost our Portsmouth Branch during the year, and that secession took away 846 members. But for this fact it will be seen that I should once more have been in a position to report an increase. Further, it may be that the abandonment of the Memorial Hall meetings has caused a few of our unattached members to leave us, though I am glad to say that the large majority have shown an appreciation of the spirit which gave birth to the Fellowship. I give, as before, the figures for each year since the inauguration of the Fellowship:—

1902-3	3,464
1903-4	3,573
1904-5	4,500
1905-6	5,002
1906-7	4,540

Thus the decrease on the year is 462.

BRANCHES.

From the preceding paragraph, it will be obvious that our Branches have displayed great activity during the year, and nearly all of them have increased their membership. One or two of them show a regrettable falling-off, but they are only one or two. We began the year with thirty-seven Branches; we end it with thirty-eight. Four new Branches have been formed—Gloucester, Lud-

denden, Ottawa, and Philadelphia, whilst it may be added that a flourishing Dublin Branch has been started, though its membership is not included in the figures given above. Of those which were in existence last year, Elsternwick; Sydenham, Forest Hill and Penge; and Portsmouth have dropped out. The first of these was a small offspring of the Melbourne Branch, but its passing does not affect our membership, for its members are absorbed into the flourishing mother-branch. Sydenham, Forest Hill and Penge never enjoyed good health, and died of inanition, and we lost not more than half a dozen members by its decease. In regard to Portsmouth, the circumstances were entirely different. Little would be attained by going into the story very fully, but it is right that the facts should be stated briefly. At the Manchester Conference, Portsmouth was not represented by one of its own members, but availed itself of the clause in our Rules which allowed it to be represented by proxy. It will be remembered that our Rules used to lay it down that Branches should send to Headquarters 4d. per 1s. on account of the subscription of every new member, and 2d. per 1s. on account of the subscription of every renewing member. At the Conference it was proposed by a Branch delegate that in future Branches should remit to Headquarters 3d. per annum per member, which meant that, whereas in the past if a renewing member paid to his Branch 2s. 6d., 5d. had to be remitted to Headquarters, only 3d. would in future have to be remitted, no matter what the amount of the subscription might be. This proposal was carried unanimously, and Portsmouth's delegate was present. A few days later the hon. secretary of the Portsmouth Branch wrote to me to the effect that his Branch would not fall in with the alteration, as it meant, he said, a 50 per cent. increase in his remittances to headquarters. It should here be noted, as a fact, that 98 per cent. of our Branches have found that the new rule has reduced their remittances, and a glance at the balance-sheet will prove that this is the case. My reply was what, I think, must be obvious—that the alteration had been adopted unanimously, and that Portsmouth's own delegate had voted in its favour. A long correspondence ensued, but Portsmouth declined to be bound by the actions of its delegate, and the secretary declined to fall into line with other Branch secretaries, and distribute copies of the Annual Report to his members. Finally, in January, a general meeting of the Branch was held, and, at the request of the Council, I attended. Fewer than forty members were present, though at the meeting it was stated by the secretary that more than 700 members had paid their subscriptions for the current year. A resolution was proposed to secede from the Fellowship. I was allowed to reply to the statement which had been made by the secretary, and was given a courteous hearing, but the resolution was carried unanimously. The Council regret the action of Portsmouth as sincerely as any member of the Fellowship will regret it. Not only was it our largest Branch, but there was a sentiment attaching to it as "the birthplace" Branch, while, of course, it was a matter for deep regret that so serious a misunderstanding should have arisen. But the Council was powerless;

so long as the Branch declined to abide loyally by a rule carried at a conference at which it was properly represented we had no option in the matter. Portsmouth are convinced that they will do better as a separate body. There is no reason why we should wish them anything but well. I may, perhaps, refer to one pleasing matter in regard to this unfortunate business. When the secession of Portsmouth became known, I received from several Branch secretaries assurances of the loyalty of their own Branches, and I can with absolute confidence assure the members of the Fellowship that our Branches are all working loyally with Headquarters, and that a spirit of good fellowship prevails everywhere. They all realise that they are not merely isolated "Dickens Societies," but parts of one big Dickens Fellowship, and that as such they have not a local but a world-wide influence.

THE COUNCIL AND ITS WORK.

The following table shows the number of possible and actual attendances at Council meetings during the year:—

	Possible Attendances.	Actual Attendances.		Possible Attendances.	Actual Attendances.
Mrs. E. I. Hall	12	8	Mr. S. Marriott	12	12
Miss Miniken	12	12	Mr. B. W. Matz	12	10
Mr. H. B. Button (Birmingham	12	5	Mr. W. Miller	12	12
Mr. W. Dexter	12	10	Mr. J. E. Palmer	12	7
Mr. J. Dyal (Sheñeld)	12	4	Mr. E. J. Timings (Birmingham	12	2
*Mr. C. E. Edson	10	7	Mr. T. W. Tyrrell	12	12
*Mr. E. P. Haslam	2	1	Mr. H. S. Ward	12	9
Mr. J. W. T. Ley	12	12	Mr. T. Webb	12	10

It should be noted that, though the year ended on August 31, the same Council had necessarily to act until the Conference, and the table above includes all meetings to that date.

The administrative work of the Council has been as heavy as in the past, and, with the Fellowship steadily extending, it must continue to grow more and more arduous. Several important alterations were made in the rules at the first Conference, and for the most part these have proved satisfactory and workable. But the Council, with a year's experience to guide them, found that one or two more amendments would be desirable.

THE CONFERENCE.

The second Conference was held on Saturday, October 5, at the Holborn Restaurant, London, and there was a representative assembly, Mr. B. W. Matz being in the chair.

The most important alteration that was made in the Rules was that affecting Rule XIII., which will in future read as follows:—

That the subscription to the Fellowship for members who are not members of Branches shall be *not less than two shillings and sixpence per annum;* payable on or before September 1st in each year. Branches in the British Isles shall remit to headquarters the sum of *fourpence in the shilling per annum on account of the subscription of each new member, and twopence in*

* Mr. Haslam resigned in December and Mr. Edson took his place.

the shilling on account of the renewal of every such subscription. Foreign and Colonial Branches shall remit not less than fourpence per member per annum. A certificate shall be issued to each member on joining, and membership shall entail no further responsibility.

A word in reference to the alterations (indicated by italics) may be permitted. It is felt that the increase from 1s. to 2s. 6d. in the subscription for headquarters members will not be objected to, half-a-crown being still a reasonable amount. The alteration in the amount to be remitted to headquarters by Branches is nothing more than a return to the old order of things, which obtained for four years. Last year it was decided that the Branches should remit 3d. per member. A glance at the balance-sheet will show that this resulted in a loss of income at headquarters.

Rule XIV. was slightly altered, so that in future the Conference may be held anywhere. Previously the Rule insisted that the Conference should be held in London every other year.

Rule XI.—This Rule provided that the Council should have power to close a Branch, which might be acting contrary to the spirit and letter of the Rules of the Fellowship, but immediately nullified that power by insisting that a Branch could be closed only if the members present at a meeting of the Branch agreed! In future the Council has power to act without asking the Branch's permission, but twenty-eight days' notice must be given to the Branch Secretary and to some other officer of the Branch.

These were all the important alterations.

Mr. E. P. Frith (son of the famous artist) was elected Hon. Auditor, in place of Mr. W. A. Bawden, who has resigned after serving the Fellowship excellently for four years. Mr. T. W. Tyrrell was appointed Hon. Treasurer, in succession to Mr. Matz, who resigned. Sir Edward Russell and Mr. Matz were elected Vice-Presidents. Members will all agree that no man is more entitled to that honour than Mr. Matz. All the other officers were re-elected. The following were elected to the Council:—Miss Emilie M. Miniken, Mr. H. B. Button (Birmingham), Mr. G. W. Davis (Birmingham), Mr. W. Dexter, Mr. J. Dyal (Sheffield), Mr. A. Humphreys (Manchester), Mr. S. Marriott, Mr. J. E. Palmer, Mr. E. J. Timings (Birmingham), Mr. E. H. Tomlin, Mr. C. Van Noorden, and Mr. T. Webb.

Sheffield was selected as the place of meeting for the next Conference.

LONDON MEETINGS.

It will be a welcome announcement that the Council have determined to resume during the present session the monthly meetings in London that were abandoned last winter. It has been impossible to prepare a complete programme in time for publication in this Report, but the following arrangements have been made. The meetings will be held at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., on the following dates:—November 13, December 4, January 8, March 4.

Each meeting will commence at 8 p.m. Members will be admitted free on production of their cards of membership for the year.

Members' friends will be admitted on payment of 6d. The Birthday Celebration will be held on February 8, 1908. Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., will be in the chair, and will deliver his annual Presidential address. All arrangements for these meetings will be announced regularly in "The Dickensian" and "Great Thoughts," and members are asked to follow these announcements.

"THE DICKENSIAN."

Our little magazine not only continues to live, but it flourishes in the most gratifying way. It has now nearly completed the third year of its existence, and it has more subscribers than ever before. On its second year's working it realised a profit. This was not so substantial as that realised in the first year, but the fact that it more than pays for itself is eminently satisfactory, and fully justifies the Council's action in launching it. It may be said again, nevertheless, that if the members supported it as they ought it would prove a really valuable source of profit to the Fellowship. Once more, on behalf of the Council, and of the Fellowship as a whole, I would express hearty thanks to the Editor, Mr. B. W. Matz, for his unselfish labours, which have made "The Dickensian" the valuable and valued little publication that it is.

THE PICKWICK EXHIBITION.

The Council this year embarked on a bold venture which has justified itself. Early in the year Mr. C. Van Noorden suggested that, as 1907 would see the seventieth anniversary of the completion of the "Pickwick Papers," the Council should arrange an Exhibition devoted exclusively to that immortal book, in celebration of the fact. A committee was appointed to consider the proposal, and that committee was fortunate in obtaining an excellent offer from the directors of the New Dudley Gallery, 169, Piccadilly. The result was that the Council decided to hold the proposed exhibition, and the following committee was appointed to carry it through:—Mr. S. Marriott, Mr. B. W. Matz, Mr. W. Miller, Mr. J. E. Palmer, and myself, as Hon. Secretary. The response to appeals for exhibits was most generous, and articles came from all over the United Kingdom, from America, and from South Africa. The result was that a unique collection was gathered—a collection which taxed the resources of the New Dudley Gallery to the full. The Exhibition was opened on July 22 by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P. Originally it was intended to keep it open until August 28, but as it aroused a widespread interest, and the attendance was well sustained the Committee determined to extend the time to September 21. It may be said that in arranging the Exhibition the Committee had to draw a strongly marked line. They confined the exhibits strictly to Pickwickiana, departing from the original idea only in two directions: they included a number of portraits of Dickens and a set of biographies. With these two exceptions, not an item was admitted that had not some bearing on the "Pickwick Papers." As the Exhibition was still open when our financial year ended and the books were audited, it is impossible to publish in this

report a financial statement relating to it, but it may be stated that the accounts will show a balance on the right side. The Council are grateful to Mr. T. P. O'Connor for his kindness in opening the Exhibition; to Mr. Percy Fitzgerald for the admirable article which he wrote for the catalogue; and to anybody and everybody who assisted to make the Exhibition a success, either by the loan of exhibits, or in any other way.

NATIONAL DICKENS LIBRARY FUND.

I am sorry that I cannot report that this fund has been completed. A statement will be found at the end of this report, from which it will be seen that, though the fund has made considerable headway during the year, there still remains the greater part of £100 to be collected. The progress that has been made is due to the kind assistance of the proprietors of "T.P.'s Weekly." In December last Mr. B. W. Matz and Mr. H. Snowden Ward were asked by the Council to take the matter in hand, and, as a result of their labours, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., very kindly offered to open a fund in his "Weekly." The proprietors of the paper headed the list with a donation of £25, and as the result of the kind efforts of Mr. O'Connor and of Mr. W. Whitten, the acting-editor, contributions came in well, and the fund progressed. Recently an influential committee has been formed to carry the scheme through, with the Lord Mayor of London as chairman. Lord James of Hereford, who has shown a keen interest in the fund, very kindly issued an appeal to the Press, and the Council earnestly appeal to the members of the Fellowship to back these efforts with good results, so that by Christmas at the latest we may announce that the fund has been completed, and a National Dickens Library is established at the Guildhall of the City of London.

FELLOWSHIP CONVALESCENT HOME FUND.

Last year I briefly outlined the proposal of the Council to establish a Fellowship Convalescent Home for ten children. We appealed for £1,000, and the trustees of the Fund were Lord James of Hereford, Canon Benham, and Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., whilst the present Lord Mayor of London (Sir William Treloar) was the Hon. Treasurer. There was a prompt response to our appeal, and, as will be seen, the total amount promised and received is more than £200. But it was realised that the scheme was too big a one for the Fellowship, and when the Lord Mayor opened his Mansion House Fund for a Home for Crippled Children it was suggested that we should, with the permission of the trustees and of the subscribers, devote the money we had received to placing a cot in that Home should it come into existence. The three trustees and the Lord Mayor heartily approved of the suggestion, and the course was resolved upon by the Council, and was announced at our Birthday Celebration in February by Mr. Dickens. The amount in hand is not sufficient for the purpose, but it should not be beyond the Dickens Fellowship to raise the difference, and so establish in a home for "Tiny Tims" a "Dickens Fellowship Cot." The idea is one that must appeal irresistibly to any

good Dickensian, and I hope that we shall have no difficulty in raising the additional money. The Council would like to take this opportunity of making hearty acknowledgment of the services rendered to the fund by Mr. E. P. Haslam.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Only one meeting was held at the Memorial Hall during the year—the Birthday Celebration—when our President took the chair, and delivered his annual address. There was a good attendance, and the evening was a complete success. On Saturday, June 8, one of the most successful outings that the Fellowship has held took place. Sixty members and friends journeyed to Chatham in the morning, and saw the places of Dickensian interest in Chatham and Rochester. After lunch at the "Bull" Hotel, the party drove in brakes to Gads Hill and Cobham. At the "Leather Bottle," about eighty sat down to tea. It was a cosmopolitan gathering, because it included members from all parts of England, and ten visitors from America. During the past summer we have been pleased to welcome in London many members of the Fellowship from the United States, Canada, and Australia, and to show them some of the famous spots which were "familiar in their mouths as household words." And on June 12th the Council entertained privately six American and Australian visitors at the "George and Vulture," the famous old Pickwickian inn.

During the ensuing session the Birthday Celebration will be held as usual; and I hope that other meetings will be arranged. Members are asked to follow the announcements in "The Dickensian" and "Great Thoughts."

NEEDLEWORK AND CHARITABLE GUILD.

In reporting on the fifth year's work of the Guild, one is glad to note increasing progress. Up to the time of the last General Meeting the Guild had existed on voluntary contributions, in consequence of which its funds had been very low, but a rule was then adopted and brought into force by which a small annual subscription —minimum 1s.— should in future be paid by all members of the Guild. This has worked well, increased the Guild's income, and enabled the Committee to render far more substantial assistance in many ways than heretofore. Early in the year the Committee were greatly assisted by generous donations from the United States of America and South Africa, which is doubly cheering, as proving that their work is watched and appreciated by members in far distant lands. Of the work itself may be mentioned among the more prominent items the tea at Easter to 150 aged poor of Tottenham and district, followed by an entertainment and refreshments to 300 poor men, women, and children. Through the aid of letters for the Surgical Aid Society, the Committee have been able to supply surgical instruments and spectacles to various cases. Large quantities of clothing have been distributed in many parts of London, and food supplied or monetary assistance given to those in need. Books and papers in plenty have found their way to hospitals, institutions, and lighthouse-keepers, and have all been much appre-

ciated. The Committee have to thank Mr. Walter Dexter for a generous gift of ninety-two books, and others for smaller supplies of books and papers, one dozen free medical letters, and large quantities of clothing. I should like to draw the attention of all members to the social side of the Guild. All who attended the performance of the "Cricket on the Hearth," the Annual Bazaar, or the "Social and Dance" have agreed that they were most enjoyable, but expenses for these functions are always heavy, and in no case has one been sufficiently well patronized materially to increase the funds of the Guild, for which purpose it was held. Branches of the Guild are doing good work. New members are always welcome, and members of the Fellowship are asked to join the Guild, and so help on our charitable work.

THE FELLOWSHIP LIBRARY.

Our Hon. Librarian, Mr. W. Miller, again appeals to members for contributions of books and cuttings towards the Library. Only three members have given this year. Mr. Miller has completed another large volume of cuttings relating to Dickens and the Fellowship—making five volumes in all. These volumes, however, contain only a small proportion of the matter relating to Dickens that has appeared. It is impossible for us in London to know of every article, and members are asked kindly to cut out and send to Mr. Miller anything they may see in the papers referring to Dickens. Mr. Miller wishes to thank Branch secretaries for notices of meetings, etc., as well as Messrs. Charles Burton, B. W. Matz, and H. N. Simmonds for gifts of books and cuttings during the year.

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The Dramatic Society has a very successful season to look back upon. Certainly only one play has been produced, but, thanks to the untiring energy of Mr. W. Teignmouth Shore, the hon. stage manager, not only were the efforts of the actors crowned with success, but "The House of Dombey," when played in December last, at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E., produced over £80 for the benefit of the Lord Mayor of London's Crippled Children's Fund after paying all incidental expenses. At this performance a very enthusiastic audience was assembled, including the Lord Mayor of London (Sir William Treloar), the Mayor of Deptford, Mrs. Henry F. Dickens and daughters, Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree (President of the Society), and Mr. Louis Calvert. During the performance Mr. Tree made a graceful speech, and presented the cheque for the proceeds of the performance to the Lord Mayor. The Committee have to report with great regret the loss the Society has sustained through the resignation of Mr. Teignmouth Shore, who since the commencement has been the Society's able stage manager. Mr. Shore is leaving London, and the best wishes of all who have seen his excellent presentations of the parts of Quilp and Captain Cuttle will go with him. During the present winter season a new comedy, "Dolly Varden," will be produced by the Society at three London theatres.

J. W. T. LEY, Hon. Gen. Sec.

SOME FACTS RELATING TO THE BRANCHES OF THE FELLOWSHIP.

Name of Branch.	Date of Inauguration.	No. of Members.
Adelaide (South Australia)	——	——
Benalla (Victoria, Australia)	Dec., 1904	38; decrease 10
Birmingham and District	20 Nov., 1903	242; increase 32
Blackheath, Lee and Lewisham	12 Jan., 1903	78; decrease 67
Brighton	12 Dec., 1903	144; increase 40
Bristol and Clifton Dickens Society (affiliated)	2 April, 1902	107; increase 5
Brixton	30 March, 1903	116; increase 56
Cardiff	19 Feb., 1906	——
Chester (U.S.A.)	4 Jan., 1904	56; increase 12
Chesterfield	26 Oct., 1905	97; increase 71
Edinburgh and Leith	Jan., 1903	70; increase 11
Forest Gate and District	25 Jan., 1905	95; increase 8
Gloucester	20 Dec., 1906	82
*Gravesend and District	1 Feb., 1906	70; decrease 14
Hastings and St. Leonards	20 Oct., 1903	254; increase 57
Hull	19 Oct., 1905	147; increase 32
Leeds	4 April, 1903	72; decrease 6
Liverpool	28 Jan., 1903	160; increase 19
Luddenden (Yorks.)	27 Feb., 1907	26
Maidstone	5 March, 1903	22; decrease 36
Manchester	27 Jan., 1903	168; increase 37
Manhattan (New York, U.S.A.)	4 April, 1905	88; increase 54
Marshall (Michigan, U.S.A.)	Oct, 1903	——
Melbourne (Australia)	Aug., 1904	240; increase 49
New York	1 April, 1905	——
Nottingham	March, 1904	29; decrease 49
Ottawa (Canada)	——	——
Philadelphia	——	109
Powerstock (Dorset)	6 Nov., 1905	51; decrease 12
†Rochester	26 May, 1903	——
Sheffield and District	22 April, 1904	615; increase 62
Shrewsbury	12 Oct., 1903	126; increase 37
Southampton	7 Oct., 1904	147; increase 13
Stockport	14 Feb., 1903	80; increase 20
Toronto (Canada)	9 May, 1905	300; increase 90
West London Suburban	10 Nov., 1903	73; decrease 8
Winnipeg (Canada).	3 Oct., 1904	27; decrease 16
York and District	Nov., 1903	66; decrease 16

NOTE.—A complete list of names and addresses of Branch Secretaries appears monthly in *The Dickensian*.

* Since the close of the year 9 additional members have paid.

† Since the close of the year 64 members have paid—a decrease of 25 on the year.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP.

GENERAL FUND. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

From 1st October, 1906, to 31st August, 1907.

Dr. | **Cr.**

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Office and General Expenses:—				By Balance 28th October, 1906	8	13	0½
Rent, Typewriting, etc. . £32 7 3				Members' Subscriptions .	132	5	8
Printing and Stationery . . 89 11 9				Profits made on:—			
Postages and Sundries . . 31 14 6				Rochester Trip and Supper . £2 18 5			
	153	13	6	*Pickwick Exhibition . . 34 17 11½			
Honorarium to Secretary (as per rule) . . .	73	6	8	Sale of Badges, Pendants and Publications, etc. . . . 4 16 7			
Conference Expenses .	7	5	8	Dickensian to December 31st, 1906 . . 15 8 8			
Birthday Celebration .		10	0		58	1	7½
				Balance, being deficit on General Fund . .	35	15	6
	£234	15	10		£234	15	10

* There are other liabilities and assets in connection with the Pickwick Exhibition which, it is estimated, will reduce this amount to about £10.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st August, 1907.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
†Sundry Creditors . .	63	5	11	Sundry Debtors . . .		17	6
Surplus as under:—				Stock on hand—Badges, Pendants, Publications, etc. (estimate) . . .	33	13	3
National Dickens Library Fund . 99 14 11				Pictures and Library at Headquarters (estimate) .	15	0	0
Charitable Fund 15 11 11				General Fund—Deficit . .	35	15	6
	115	6	10	Cash:—			
				At Bankers. £90 10 0			
				In Hand . . 2 16 6			
					93	6	6
	£178	12	9		£178	12	9

† There are other liabilities which have not been estimated at this date.

I have compared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts and Vouchers produced to me, and certify the same to be correct, and in accordance therewith.

W. A. BAWDEN, *Chartered Accountant*
(*Honorary Auditor*).

90/91, *Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C., 27th September*, 1907.

NATIONAL DICKENS LIBRARY FUND.

Income and Expenditure Account to 31st August, 1907.

Dr.	£ s. d.		Cr. £ s. d.
To Balance in hand at the beginning of the year .	40 5 3	By Balance in hand 31st August, 1907 . . .	99 14 11
Subscriptions . . .	59 9 8		
	£99 14 11		£99 14 11

NOTE.—In addition to the above, subscriptions to the amount of about £40 have been promised but not yet received, whilst there is also a sum of £41 0s. 9d. in the hands of the Trustees of the fund.

CHARITABLE FUND.

Income and Expenditure Account to 31st August, 1907.

Dr.	£ s. d.		Cr. £ s. d.
To Balance in hand at the beginning of the year .	15 1 11	By Balance in hand 31st August, 1907 . . .	15 11 11
Subscriptions . . .	10 0		
	£15 11 11		£15 11 11

DICKENS FELLOWSHIP CONVALESCENT HOME FUND.

Cash Statement for the Year ending 30th September, 1907.

Receipts. Dr.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	Cr. £ s. d.
To Balance, October 1st, 1906 :—		By Postage, Stationery and General Expenses . .	1 0 6
At Bankers £128 10 9		Cash in hand :—	
In hand . . 0 17 1½		At Bankers :—	
129 7 10½		On Deposit £125 0 0	
Subscriptions . . .	9 2 0	General Account . . 16 3 8	
Interest on deposit . .	3 15 11	£141 3 8	
		In Office . . 0 1 7½	
		141 5 3½	
	£142 5 9½		£142 5 9½

NOTE.—In addition to the amount already received as above, various sums have been promised.

Audited and found Correct.

W. A. BAWDEN, F.C.A., *Honorary Auditor.*

90/91, *Queen Street, Cheapside, E.C., 1st October*, 1907.

THE CRATCHITS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Drawn by Arthur H. Dixon

(From "Child Characters from Dickens," by permission of Mr. Ernest Nister)

See page 340.